

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 04956 081052Z

17

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 INR-05 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 L-01 H-01 PRS-01 /040 W

----- 109595

R 080837Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3907

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 4956

LIMDIS

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, RP

SUBJ: PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. STATE 083319, B. MANILA 4954, C. MANILA 4955

1. APPRECIATE SUCCINCT YET THOROUGH SUMMARY OF FIRST WEEK OF TALKS. WE DO NOT WISH TO INVOLVE OURSELVES IN NEGOTIATING STRATEGY WHICH IS BEST LEFT TO USDEL, HOWEVER, WE DO HAVE SOME OBSERVATIONS RE PARAGRAPH 16 WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE HELPFUL.

2. MANILA 4954 REPEATED TRADE SECRETARY QUIAZON'S REFINEMENT OF RETAIL TRADE RULING AND AMCHAM VIEWS THEREON. PARAGRAPH 2 OF MANILA 4955 REPORTED INDUSTRY SECRETARY PATERNO'S APPROACH TO DEALING WITH THE ANTI-DUMMY LAW. BOTH OF THESE APPEAR TO US TO REPRESENT PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS WHICH WILL SATISFY IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENTS OF AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY. WE WOULD THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT, IF THEY ARE TO REMAIN PART OF LITANY SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH 16 OF REFTL, IT BE FOR TACTICAL PURPOSES ONLY.

3. IN OUR VIEW, TO ATTEMPT TO SET GROUND RULES IN THESE TWO POINTS IN CONCRETE WOULD PRESENT REAL PROBLEM FOR GOP WHICH MIGHT BE INSURMOUNTABLE. THERE IS DIFFERENCE OF
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PAGE 02 MANILA 04956 081052Z

OPINION WITHIN AMCHAM IN THIS REGARD. SOME ARGUE FOR

CLEAR DEFINITION. OTHERS, LIKE CURRENT AMCHAM PRESIDENT
SUTER (PFIZER), BELIEVE THAT PRAGMATIC (ONE MIGHT SAY
ORIENTAL) SOLUTION IS BEST THAT CAN BE EXPECTED, AND THAT
THOSE WHO THINK OTHERWISE "HAVEN'S BEEN HERE LONG ENOUGH".
IN OUR VIEW, GOP APPROACH AND EMINENTLY PHILIPPINE SOLUTION
TO THESE TWO PROBLEMS HAS BEEN REALISTIC AND IS MOST WE
CAN EXPECT. IF WE MAKE DETERMINED EFFORT TO ACHIEVE
PRECISE RESOLUTION, RESULT MIGHT BE FIRM GROUND RULE
BENEFICIAL TO NO ONE. LONG RUN SOLUTION TO PROBLEM MAY
LIE IN MORE GENERAL FORMULATION WITHIN CONTEXT OF
INVESTMENT AGREEMENT.
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